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Analysis: Is America deaf to oppression?

By Erich Bridges
International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Thomas Jefferson is "the man of the millennium," claims popular filmmaker Ken Burns. "He is the beginning of all thought about human freedom and dignity."

The beginning of all thought? Someone must have deleted several thousand years of history from Burns' database.

He may be forgiven a little exaggeration, since he was promoting his latest film — about Jefferson, of course. Still the arrogance, or willful ignorance, of his assertion staggers the mind. It illustrates how casually the custodians of culture now divorce Western ideas from their main source: the Bible.

Jesus Christ, the Man for all millennia, had something to say about freedom — the kind that makes you free indeed. He began his public ministry by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he hath appointed me to preach the gospel to the poor ... deliverance to the captives ... to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18).

Christians persecuted for their faith by tyrannical governments and other hostile forces look to the U.S. for hope — and a helping hand. What they usually get, if they are acknowledged at all, is a stiff arm.

Christian refugees seeking U.S. asylum from religious persecution often encounter skeptical immigration officials, jail and eventual deportation. The ever-growing number of oppressed Christians abroad is ignored or

written off when the U.S. government issues human rights reports or sends foreign aid.

White House spokesmen and State Department officials have belittled reports of persecution, or talked about the need to use "quiet diplomacy."

This pattern has continued through several administrations, both Democrat and Republican. In Congress, the few members consistently calling for real action too often have found themselves to be lonely voices crying in the wind.

"The cause of freedom in the world ought to be on a roll today," observes syndicated

American people is business."

More and more American Christians are becoming aware of the suffering their persecuted brethren endure. Perhaps U.S. officials are listening to them.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright — herself a refugee from communist tyranny as a child — has pledged a higher U.S. priority on the rights of persecuted religious believers.

Last year the State Department formed an advisory committee to study religious persecution and recommend U.S. action. Committee members include former SBC president Jim Henry.

Others say the State Department itself is part of the problem, that suffering believers deserve a much higher profile — and a special presidential adviser.

Christians speaking with one voice, however, will produce more results than panels or advisers. American Jews proved that years ago when their united campaign to free persecuted Russian Jews forced the mighty Soviet state to "let my people go."

Oppressed Christians are becoming the "Jews of the 21st century ... the scapegoats of choice to the thug regimes around the world," says attorney Michael Horowitz of the Hudson Institute.

His Jewish grandparents' memories of persecution in Europe led him to fight for Christians facing the same fate now.

"For the United States to be utterly silent in the face of budding and actual holocausts is obscene and unthinkable."

Adapted from July 1997 issue of "The Commission," the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (formerly Foreign Mission Board) monthly magazine.



Graphic by International Mission Board

columnist Paul Greenberg. "Instead, only a few years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it is in strange, shameful retreat. Why?"

Politics and money. The Cold War may be over, but the U.S. still has powerful allies — and customers — to keep happy. Some of them are notorious abusers of Christians.

Nations don't have morals, someone once said; nations have interests.

In the land of the free, the ideal of Jefferson collides with the ideal of Calvin Coolidge: "The chief business of the

around the world," says attorney Michael Horowitz of the Hudson Institute.

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'The Church Musician' folds

"The Church Musician" has ceased publication after 47 years. A new monthly magazine, "Church Musician Today," begins publication with the September 1997 issue.

"The Church Musician" was begun in 1950 by the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) as a monthly resource. The magazine has a circulation of 9,000 copies.

The new publication "will be a forum for ideas on music and worship, music education, music administration, worship planning, hymnody trends and worship trends," according to editor Jere Adams of the BSSB's music ministries department.

Adams said the monthly publication of "Church Musician Today" will provide readers with one-third more material than the content of the quarterly version of "The Church Musician." In addition, more timely material will be provided electronically by some contributors and added to the publication just before printing deadline.

"Church Musician Today" is item 179 on BSSB's dated literature order form.

Looking back

10 years ago

Joy Yates of Yazoo City is elected president of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference during their annual meeting in St. Louis, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). She is the spouse of James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City.

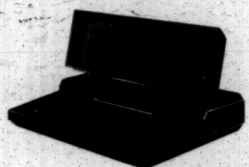
20 years ago

First Church, Jackson, honors Chester Swor on his 70th birthday. "Few men in Southern Baptist life have touched as many lives... as Chester Swor," said SBC president Jimmy Allen. Swor counseled and lectured students for over 40 years, traveling more than one million miles.

50 years ago

J. D. Ray, who 52 years ago rode horseback to his first gospel charge and who has been pastor of First Church, Starkville, for the past 34 years, is honored on the occasion of his retirement at special services in Starkville.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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How we govern ourselves

Judging by the volume and content of telephone calls and correspondence to "The Baptist Record" since Southern Baptist Convention messengers passed the Disney boycott resolution in mid-June, it's time for a primer on Southern Baptist polity — how we constitute and govern ourselves as the largest single Protestant denomination in the world.

Many of the calls and letters since the Disney vote simply wanted clarification on some misunderstood point, but more than a few inquiries betrayed an alarming paucity of knowledge about the multi-layered, multi-faceted, and autonomous natures of the entities that comprise the Southern Baptist Convention.

Some of the people who called and wrote wanted to know how the Disney resolution would be "enforced" in Mississippi. Others wanted to know if they could be drummed out of their church if they accidentally patronized Disney.

One caller even referred to the resolution as an "ammunition" to make people see things his way.

There seems to be a great deal of confusion among people in the pews about how we govern ourselves in general, and how Southern Baptist Convention resolutions apply to them.

Our denominational system of governance is breathtaking in its simplicity. The bureaucracies we have installed may be confusing to people who have gotten lost in the growing number of voice-mail systems across the convention (a personal peeve of mine), but our polity is crystal clear.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the county Baptist associations, and individual churches are independent bodies that have chosen to work together for the greater goal of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Among the magnificent, God-inspired ways we have banded together to achieve that goal are:

- Cooperative Program.
- Baptist Sunday School Board.
- Mississippi Baptist Partnership Mission Projects.
- Associational mission projects.
- Local church response to community needs.

The list could go on *ad infinitum*. The point is that Southern Baptists have chosen to voluntarily cooperate with each other to reach our mutual goal of presenting the gospel message to each person on earth.

The key to the whole system is the concept of voluntary cooperation.

Tylertown native James L. Sullivan, a longtime Southern Baptist leader and one of the greatest Christian statesmen ever produced by any denomination, referred to the voluntary nature of the Cooperative Program as a "rope of sand," but his description is also a relevant statement on the entirety of Southern Baptist polity.

When messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention gather each summer and pass resolutions, those resolutions have no binding effect on other self-governing entities, such as the Mississippi Baptist Convention, local Southern Baptist churches, and even individual Southern Baptists.

When messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention gather each fall and pass resolutions, those resolutions have no binding effect on other self-governing entities, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, local Southern Baptist churches, and even individual Southern Baptists.

Resolutions do make a bold statement on the sentiments of messengers who attend a particular convention, but those resolutions do not require action on the part of the other self-governing Southern Baptist entities — they decide whether to lend their support to a specific resolution.



So what should an individual Southern Baptist do about matters such as the Disney resolution?

First and foremost, be in prayer about what God wants for your life. He will direct your every thought and action, if only you will listen and heed.

That includes what you should do about Disney resolution.

Second, an individual Southern Baptist's decision on the Disney resolution should not be viewed as a test of fellowship or a statement on his/her Christian witness.

Third, we should never reach the point where such matters take us away from our highest and greatest calling — to bring everyone in Mississippi and the world to salvation in Christ Jesus.

Remember those three points, and everything else will fall into its natural place in your life.

Every Southern Baptist should attend at least one Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in their lifetime. It is the most impressive display of inspirational confusion you'll ever find.

On the confused side there are the business sessions. When there is an amendment to an amendment to the main motion on the floor and the president rules some messenger's motion out of order and then some other messenger appeals the ruling of the chair — that's confusion. Sometimes even the convention president doesn't know on what he is asking you to vote.

On the inspiration side there are the worship experiences. The Wednesday evening session was one of the most worshipful times I have known in my Christian walk. One by one, men and women came to the platform and shared testimonies of how they came to know Christ.

There was Lillian, a woman from near Seattle, Washington, who found the Lord because of the witness of a home missionary couple who lived in the same apartment complex. How complete is the change in her life? "If (Jesus) were to ask me to give up anything in my life,

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



Confusion, inspiration at the SBC

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

the answer would be 'yes,'" Lillian said.

There was an ordained Buddhist priest from Japan who was miraculously saved in 1984 and became part of a new work started by SBC missionaries that grew into a church in seven years. "In the very soul of idolatry," she said, "a tiny Baptist mission... witnesses of the saviour's love."

There was Mike, a Ft. Worth, Texas, drug addict who was touched by the Gospel while in prison through the ministry of the Radio and Television Commission. He is now a student at Southwestern Seminary and ministering to sinners off the street. Mike said he called his mom to tell her that he would be sharing his testimony at the SBC. "She cried all week," Mike said. "She told me, 'all your life I was so ashamed of

you. Now I tell people how proud I am of my son.' Without all of you, I wouldn't be here tonight. Thank you all, all of you, for my life."

My wife and I held hands, wiped away tears, and praised God all through that moving service. I felt proud to be a Southern Baptist that night, if it's not a sin to feel pride in such a way. I left that hall wanting to tell the world about Jesus.

I've not always left the SBC feeling that way. My very first convention was in Dallas 12 years ago. The 1985 SBC in Dallas drew over 45,000 messengers, an all-time record. It was at the height of the controversy that has dominated our denominational life for these many years. The Peace Committee was organized at the '85 Dallas meeting. Charles Stanley was president.

Lawsuits were filed in response to his rulings at that meeting. It was a hot and exhausting three days. I cannot say that I enjoyed my first SBC.

I have heard older pastor friends talk about the way the SBC used to be, warm in fellowship and sweet in spirit. I've heard many lament the loss of that convention and long for its return. In reality, they are grieving.

Well, I never knew that convention. I was a seminary student, just learning about the larger life of the SBC when all this started. I had nothing to do with the controversy's beginning and I refuse to carry it on. I cannot grieve the loss of what I have never known.

I do not, however, miss the hectic confusion of the '85 convention. The contrast of this year's meeting to 1985 is astounding. This convention in Dallas was peaceful, and at times, downright inspiring.

You can do what you feel led to do about the Disney thing. As for me, despite some reservations, I will support the boycott. However, that one resolution was not what this convention was about. For me it was about closure. For the first time since attending my first SBC, I am looking forward to going back.

Mass choir, orchestra to perform in Jan.

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

A mass choir of over 1,500 voices and the 110-member Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra will present the musical, "God with Us," on Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, according to L. Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist

Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will serve as narrator.

The musical presentation will dominate the Monday evening session of the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference, according to S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, MBCB director of evangelism.

"We want to give a gift to Mississippi so that people will be able to find peace and pur-

Smith suggested a choir could use "God with Us" as a summer or fall musical project, and then participate in the statewide presentation in January.

Thus far, 32 choirs from Mississippi Baptist churches have committed to be part of the presentation, and Smith said there are at least another 34 choirs familiar with the musical that could participate.

In addition, Smith said any individual who has sung the musical, or would agree to purchase a tape and rehearse it at home, could participate.

The orchestra consists of instrumentalists from 18 different churches around the state. It was founded and held its premier performance in 1997.

Smith said he has participated in "God with Us" 48 times over the past several years, with various churches all over the state and even out of state.

"God with Us" is out in a simplified version for the smaller church choir," Smith noted. A smaller church using the simplified version can still participate in the large mass choir.

Smith is also looking for churches who have a banner ministry. "There is a lot of room in the coliseum for banners," he observed.

"The church music department needs to know what the banners say in advance so we can coordinate them," he added.

The idea germinated for about two years. It took the organizing of the state orchestra, the support of the MBCB evangelism department, and the budget support of the witness team to bring it about, Smith added.

For more information, contact Smith at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Conference cancelled

The "Growing Churches for Tomorrow Through Missions and Ministry Conference" July 17-19 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian has been cancelled due to lack of registrants.

The other two leadership training conferences entitled "Growing Churches for Tomorrow Through Bible Study" (July 24-26) and "Growing Churches for Tomorrow Through Discipleship" (July 31-Aug. 2) will take place as planned.

Those who registered for the first conference on July 17-19 are encouraged to switch their plans and attend the July 24-26 or July 31-Aug. 2 training conferences.

GOO

*A Gift of Celebration...
to our Lord and for the people
of Mississippi.*

January 19, 1998
Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson
7:00 p.m.

Monday night session of the
State Evangelism Conference

1,000 voices
100-member Mississippi Baptist
Symphony Orchestra
"One Voice" Praise Team

Convention Board (MBCB).

There will be no admission charge, and the public is invited to attend.

"God with Us" is one of the most — if not the most — anointed praise musicals ever written," said Smith. "It has been shared not only across Mississippi and our nation, but around the world."

Appearing with the mass choir and orchestra will be "One Voice," a praise team ensemble under the direction of Smith.

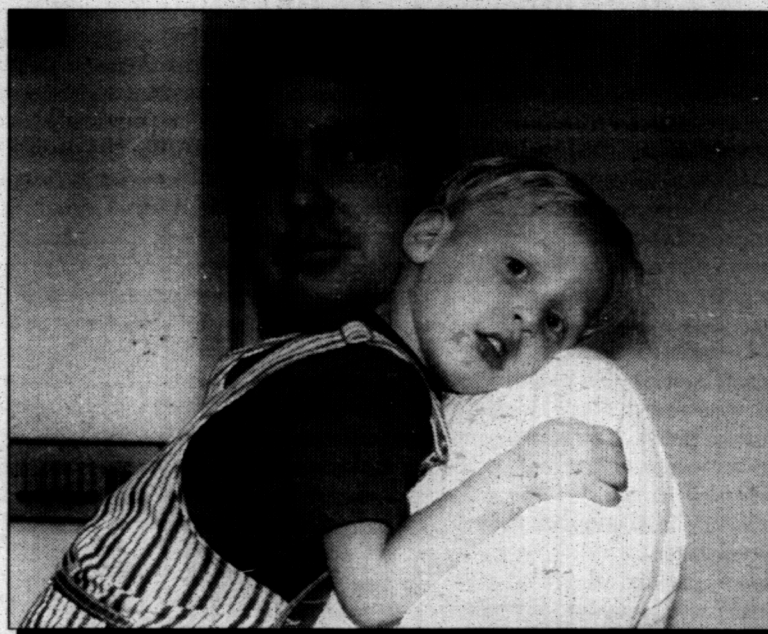
pose for their lives," Adkins said.

The MBCB witness team is funding the presentation through its budget from the Cooperative Program.

"All that is needed are the musicians," Smith said.

In order to participate, a choir must have performed or worked on the musical. There will only be one rehearsal at 5 p.m. before the Jan. 19 performance — and that will be more of a run-through than a rehearsal, Smith said.

Dad's soft shoulder



Mark Long, pastor of Perkinston Church, Perkinston, cradles son Michael after a long day at the June 17-19 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Dallas convention Center in Dallas, Texas. (Photo by Carl M. White)

State CP gifts up in June

Cooperative Program (CP) giving for 1997 through Mississippi Baptist Convention churches reached \$12,779,103 at the end of June, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

That amount is \$706,560, or 5.85%, over budget requirements for the first six months of the year. The 1997 Mississippi CP budget is \$24,145,086.

The total is also \$644,062, or 5.31%, ahead of giving for the first six months of 1996.

June giving was \$1,725,185 — \$141,156 more than that given in June of 1996.

CP gifts help fund such projects at the All-State Youth Choir, which tours the state July 14-22; Youth Night at the Mississippi Coliseum on July 25-26; and the church Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) leadership training camps at Camp Garaywa in Clinton during the week of July 28-31.

SBC CP takes June dip

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for June fell 3.77% from June 1996's total, yet remain 4.88% above the previous year to date, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

June CP gifts totaled \$12,024,314 compared to June 1996 of \$12,494,743 — a 3.77% decrease of \$470,429.

At the end of nine months of the SBC 1996-97 fiscal year, total CP receipts were \$116,858,328 compared to the same 1995-96 period of \$111,422,676, an increase of 4.88% or \$5,435,651. The SBC fiscal year is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. Designated gifts for June also were down 18.17%. The June total of \$11,580,383 compared to June 1996's \$14,151,977 — down \$2,571,594.

For the SBC's CP Allocation Budget, the June receipts were \$63,477 below the required monthly figure of \$12,087,791, a .53% decrease. For the year to date, the required budget figure of \$108,790,124 has been surpassed by 7.42% or \$8,068,203.

Ministers' wives hear Mississippian's report

DALLAS (BP and staff reports) — A positive endowment fund report, along with

Lee Taylor, soon-to-be retired pastor of First Church, Gainesville, Ga., designed the luncheon to "encourage ministers' wives through wit and wisdom."

JoAnn Berger of Hattiesburg, corresponding secretary for the conference, gave a report to the group. She is the spouse of George Berger, director of missions for Lebanon Association in Hattiesburg.

A sell-out audience of 800 women heard speakers Dixie Lusher of Berea, Ky., and Dennis Swanberg of Fort Worth, Texas.

Lusher, 83, a popular speaker-mentor, said she is uniquely qualified not only to speak to ministers' wives but also to speak on her topic: "Joy Stealers and Joy Restorers."

A minister's wife twice — for a total of 50 years — she remarried 14 years after the death of her first husband, who was killed one afternoon by a drunken driver as he walked home from visiting church members. Just a few months ago, Lusher was told she had inoperable cancer in her spine.

"There will be some dark, rainy days, and the sooner we recognize and acknowledge that the better," said Lusher, who offered the women some advice she wished someone had told her when she was younger.

"These times come when we don't expect it and from cir-

cumstances from which we least expect it," she said, as when she went to her doctor in January about some pain in her shoulder. She then learned she had cancer of the spine which could leave her paralyzed from the arms down.

"Maybe you're all healthy on the outside, but maybe on the inside you're struggling with some conflict between you and your spouse, a prodigal child or grandchild or church members," she said, "who can be the most cantankerous people in all the world."

"But when you're worried and you can't sleep, don't count sheep," she said. "Talk to the shepherd."

After discussing a problem with God in prayer, Lusher advised the women to talk with a friend, "ideally someone not identified with your church," for the sake of confidentiality, or "talk to yourself" by keeping a journal or diary.

Swanberg, special assistant to the president at Southwestern Seminary, previously was pastor of a church in Louisiana for several years.

"Too many of y'all in ministry are too serious," he said. "You need to loosen up a little bit."

"We need to encourage each other," Swanberg said. "And in the midst of living, you have to lighten up."

"You're so busy trying to do ministry, be spiritual, and look

spiritual, while making house payments and keeping your kids in tennis shoes.

"Folks," he said, "you've just got to have a sense of humor so you can sing in the rain. You've got to realize there needs to be a balance between sunshine and showers."

Besides personal laughter, family laughter also is important to Swanberg, who said, "The family that can laugh together stays together. If it's fun and full of joy, people want to be there."

A first-time feature of the conference was on-site "individual counsel for women who may be experiencing difficulty or distress in their lives," Taylor said.

Counseling was provided by eight staff members of LeaderCare, part of the Baptist Sunday School Board's pastor-staff leadership department.

LeaderCare has a confidential 24-hour toll-free crisis hotline and works with 80 networks across the country to refer ministers and their family members for help.

The LeaderCare telephone number is (888) 789-1911.

The 1998 meeting in Salt Lake City is scheduled for noon on June 9, with the theme "Embracing the Past and Engaging the Future."

Guest speaker will be Esther Burroughs, a Southern Baptist author and speaker on prayer.



MISSISSIPPIAN REPORTS

— JoAnn Berger, corresponding secretary of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference, gestures to the group's newly-designed lapel pin during her June 18 report to the conference, which is held each year in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The 1997 luncheon was held in the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

on-site counseling and two hours of encouragement, were featured at the 1997 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference luncheon on June 17 during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas.

The \$100,000 goal for a Ministers' Wives Endowment Fund was met and exceeded this year, said Dolores Taylor of Gainesville, Ga., president of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference for 1996-97.

Taylor, whose husband is former Mississippi pastor John

Readers respond to Disney boycott

I dislike the term "boycott" for all the bad images it brings to mind here in the South. Disney today — who or what tomorrow? Accentuate the Disney positives!

Linda Jenkins
Yazoo City

Boycott the liquor industry! Both (Disney and liquor) are "companies that promote immoral ideologies and practices." Southern Baptists, does liquor hit too close to home? 20th Century Pharisees? Most definitely.

Vernar & Judy Guinn
Columbus

I am totally in favor of the boycott of Disney! It's time for Christians to stand up for what they believe!

Margie Scruggs
Winona

As a teenager, my friends (especially of other denominations) have warped views of the boycott. It's our duty to explain why we are boycotting Disney.

April McAdory
Philadelphia

I choose not to use my

Father's provisions to support anything that is diametrically opposed to his holiness. What exceedingly poor stewardship!

Sherry Kitman Devorss
Meridian



Stand up, stand up for Jesus. Finally, the SBC took a stand for our Lord and Savior. Pray for God's will, not man's.

Bert Lawrence
Columbia

The boycott may do more harm than good for our witness. We have provoked anger rather than shown love and concern.

Kathryn Webb
Pascagoula

It's interesting that the California pastor who stirred up the convention with his resolution continues to patronize the very establishment he wants us to boycott!

David Crowe
Meadville

Those pastors who like to be in the daily news should quit criticizing the resolution. They had a year to speak out; as did Disney.

Jim Burke
Waynesboro

I am so glad that the Lord didn't boycott me when I was living out of his will. Jesus never rejected anyone. The question is, "What would Jesus do?"

Don G. Nerren
Brandon

What's your opinion on the Disney boycott? To appear in this space, sum up your opinion in 25 words or less, sign it, and mail it to "The Baptist Record," P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please include your address and telephone number for verification purposes.

First Church, Biloxi on display at SBC



Steve Newton (left), a church architecture specialist with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, explains to Mike and Vicki Rhine, members of North Lanier Church in Cumming, Ga., a scale model of the proposed building project of First Church, Biloxi, on display in the exhibit area of the Dallas Convention Center during the June 17-16 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. BSSB specialists have worked with the church for some time on the design of the new facilities. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Pastors land on opposite sides of boycott

DALLAS (BP) — Jim Henry and Wiley Drake, two Southern Baptist pastors of churches near a Disney theme park, chose opposite sides at the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention on how to deal with the transgressions of their famous neighbor.

Henry, pastor of the 10,000-member First Church, Orlando, Fla., opposed the resolution

adopted overwhelmingly June 18. Walt Disney World is the Orlando area's most famous attraction. He feared the decision would harm efforts to lead people to faith in Jesus.

After last year's resolution, Henry said he had members in his church come to him with tears in their eyes and say, "Pastor, those people I've been

witnessing to, bringing to church ... they're saying, 'Don't invite me anymore; don't come back; don't ask me to go to that church.' If that's the way you feel about me or people, I don't have any time for it." And this hurts us.

"I do not feel like this is the best way to get our positive message out," he said. "That message is Jesus Christ loves you and wants to save you, and we've got that message. I think that's the great message, and I don't think this is the best way to deliver that message."

Drake, pastor of the much smaller First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., supported the resolution. Disneyland is less than five miles from the church property. Drake said the resolution would help bring people to Christ.

"Some people sensed that we were at least committed but not quite as committed as we could be (in last year's resolution), and this is just a reinforcement; this is a recommitment," he said.

"And contrary to what Dr. Henry says, we will have an effect. This will help us win people to Jesus ... because the world we live in today is not

looking for a mamby-pamby bunch of pansy-waist [sic] Christians that don't take a stand. Most people that are looking for Jesus today have been there, done that, grew up in a church with ... no backbone, no guts, and they're looking" for real Christianity, Drake said.

Henry, only a year removed from completing his second year as SBC president, said he was uncertain the convention had "thought through (the boycott), worked through it well enough to deal with it yet. And there are some questions left unanswered today and I think will be in the future," he said.



Henry



Drake

Mississippians in Dallas



Kemit McGregor (right), pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, tours the Southern Baptist Convention exhibit area in the Dallas Convention Center June 17 with wife Phyllis (center), daughter Lisa Williamson (left) and grandson Lane Williamson. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Beeson Divinity School of Samford University presents:

TENTH ANNUAL SAMFORD PASTORS SCHOOL

July 28 through August 1, 1997

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Duane Litfin
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Howard Edington
Senior Pastor
First Presbyterian Church of Orlando



Alvin Jackson
Senior Pastor
Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church
Memphis, Tennessee



Marge Caldwell
Author and Speaker
Houston, Texas



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"I don't think we should worry about taking a stand on things we can grab hold of, but I think this is very complex," Henry pointed out.

He said 95% of Americans "will see the resolution as 'we don't like Mickey Mouse and the good healthy things,' not the things that are bad, which I deeply deplore and are reprehensible. ... I felt like the negatives outweighed the positives about our prime mission, and there are other ways to deal with Disney."

Drake said he began an economic boycott of Disney immediately after his amendment to include the threat of a boycott was adopted in last year's resolution.

"Now, have I boycotted everything that Disney has over this last year? I don't know. I've done the best I can," he said.

"Everybody always says, 'Oh my goodness, it would be overwhelming,'" Drake said.

"Nonsense. We boycott a lot of companies. There's a lot of companies we'll miss; there's a lot of companies we won't boycott. It's an overwhelming task, but Jesus called us to overwhelming tasks, and we will boycott everything we can.

"If we miss some and are called hypocrites because we missed it, we don't have to answer to the Southern Baptist Convention or the press. We answer to God," Drake said.

Corrections

On page one of the June 19 issue, the location of the mission team that included Mississippians should have been Tours, France — not Toulouse, France. Also, Angela Hennington should have been listed as one of the participating Mississippians. These were reporter's errors.

On page four of the June 26 issue, the correct dates for the Mississippi Church Media Library Conference should have been listed as July 24-26. Incorrect information was supplied to the newspaper.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Samoa vols needed

The volunteer department of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) has issued an urgent request for teachers for the Somoa Baptist Academy in Pago Pago, American Samoa. There are presently nine vacancies in grades one through eight. For more information, contact Sidney Pitts in the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

ATMOSPHERE OF WORSHIP

Editor:

Regarding worship, I do not believe anyone has said it better than the esteemed Edward L. Byrd, long-time pastor of First Church, Florence, S.C.:

"Where the service focuses upon the individuals present, the church yields to the entertainment craze that is sweeping our land like a prairie fire. The applause given to a vocalist's rendition takes away from the tribute that the solo purports to give God. The soloist or choir thus becomes performers; and the more nearly the singing of a song comes across as a performance, the more apt is the congregation to applaud.... I prefer to sit in awe and in contemplation rather than cheer like our society is conditioned to do at a ball game or some secular stage performances.... It is as ridiculous as it would be after observing the Lord's Supper when the scenes of the cross have been brought before us, if the pastor should say, 'Now let's give three cheers for Jesus!'" (From his excellent book, "A Byrd's Eye View.")

We need to read again the biblical atmosphere of worship found in Isaiah 6 or what Jesus declared in John 4:19-24 — "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Gene Triggs
Madison

COUNSELING AVAILABLE

Editor:

I read with interest the letter concerning the availability of affordable counseling in the June 19th edition of "The Baptist Record." This is an area of ministry need that The Baptist Children's Village is attempting to fill with a new outreach ministry beginning in Northeast Mississippi.

We currently have available a program that provides low-cost or no-cost Christian professional counseling. Pastors or professionals can refer individuals to our Tupelo office where counseling arrangements can be made with area Christian Counselors.

Anyone interested may call (601) 566-7722 to discuss counseling needs.

Jim Alford
Baptist Children's Village
Water Valley

ANNIVERSARIES NOTED

Editor:

Our recent appeal to our Mississippi Baptist churches to schedule anniversary celebrations and to notify the Historical Commission about

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those planned events proved very successful.

We have established a new record for the number of known celebrations on the same weekend.

On Sunday, July 27, Mt. Pisgah Church, Carrollton, will celebrate its 150th anniversary; Bethel Church, Louisville, will celebrate its 150th anniversary; Ashland Church, Ashland, will celebrate its 125th anniversary; and Montevista Church, Eupora, will celebrate its Centennial anniversary.

The grand total years of service of these four churches is 525 years.

As noted, this record breaks the one established last year when we had three churches celebrating significant anniversaries on the first Sunday in October.

Mississippi Baptist churches have every reason to celebrate the gift of success and longevity as they have served as a Lighthouse for the Lord in all of the hills and valleys of the state of Mississippi.

We encourage all Mississippians to join the Commission in celebrating the glorious heritage of service by the loyal membership of all of our churches.

Edward L. McMillan, Ex. Sec.
Miss. Bapt. Historical Comm.
Clinton

REACH ACROSS

Editor:

The face of racism changes when it puts down the whip and picks up the Bible.

When Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin," slave mothers were whipped into maximum service by threats of selling their children.

Young girls, used as "breeders", saw their babies sold like puppies at auction or to slave warehouses. Families were often split-up and sold to pay the master's debts, as was the case of Uncle Tom.

In 1852 Abraham Lincoln reportedly said after meeting Stowe, "So this is the little lady who made this big war."

Historians disagree with this power attributed to her, but she did capture the spirit of man's inhumanity to man.

Ministers defended slavery and slave owners as the church stood by watching in silence.

Today, by omission, the church defends racism by leaving the healing ministry of Christian race relationships to

Attending SBC meeting



Attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting July 17-19 at the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas were (above photo, front from left) Donna, Ashley, Audrey, and Tim McMillen, pastor of Priceville Church, Tupelo, and Terrell McGreger (rear), pastor of Brewer Church, Shannon. Stephen Huber (below photo, left), pastor of Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, talks with Mike Johnson, pastor of Martin Church, New Albany. (Photos by Carl M. White)



little children, public school teachers, and anyone else courageous enough to speak out against silence.

I was hoping that our 1997 Southern Baptist Convention would follow up on its apology for slavery by voting to boycott modern-day racism in Southern Baptist homes, cities, and churches.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave or free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28

Fear, hate, and racism builds an emotionally integrated prison, stronger than one with more visible bars.

The only way out is reaching across — not down — to one another in a spirit of equality

and brotherhood. God left the key with the church.

Ruby McLeod
Jackson

GRIEF INCREASED

Editor:

The information contained in the article "Trustee nominees question NAMB decisions" (June 5) didn't surprise me, but increased the grief I have experienced.

(continued on page 7)

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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 10, 1997

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

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17-18 Woodville BC
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18-19 Shady Grove BC, Hazlehurst
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Area 8

24-25 FBC, Collins
6:30 p.m., Thurs.-noon, Fri.

25-26 Calvary BC, Silver Creek
6:30 p.m. Fri.-noon, Sat.

August 1997

Area 9

7-8 Juniper Grove BC, Poplarville
6:30 p.m. Thurs.-noon, Fri.

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1947-Corrine Griffin; 1948-Frances Bibb, Sylvania Burr; 1949-Norma Jean John, Laura Thompson, Gwen Compere; 1950-Betty Cooper, Maurine Sparkman, Bill Causey, Jean Faulkner; 1951-Ray, Mary Louise Hobart, Lucille Crawford, Marianne Colvert, Anna Margaret King, Martha Jo Ashley; 1954-Sarah Ruth Reid, Lenno Powell, Kathryn Jasper, Mary Evelyn Nabors, Bonita S. Johnny Goodwin, Phalba Clark, Julius Collum, Barbara Carpenter, Tommy Hudson, Calvin Isaac, Hugh Vaughn, James Todd; 1957-Hazel Ann Prestridge, Curtis A. Bruge, Ida Beryl Sims, Earle Clemons Pittman, Marian Anne Busby, Polly Jane Hunter, Dorsey Deaton, Alicia Fern Jones, Billie Juanita Ross, Tommy Ross, Norman Dwight Patterson, Jerry Johnston, Jr., Patricia Ann D. Frank Tupper, Jr., Doug Bain, Barbara Briggs, Georgia Parnell; 1962-Bobby Carolyn Smith, Johnny Armistead, Barbara Jett, Pat Still, Travis Holtzclaw, Peggy Langley; 1963-Huel Moseley, S. Franklin Eubanks, Karen Robbins, Bobbye Simmons, Gwen Keys, Anita Lazenby, Jerry Strahan, Joe Ray Underwood, Marvin Reddish; 1966-Russell Bush, Margaret Ferguson, Ray Pople, E. Loller, Douglas McWhirter, Susan Epperson, Larry Shirley, Shelia Schambeau, Robert Walker, Ron Boswell, Betty Ann White, Garland Robertson; 1968-Charlotte Bryant, John Lockhart, Ker Hightower; 1969-Vicki Newcomb, James Landrum, Karen James, Joe Ogletree, Cynthia Powell, David Wallace, Charles Gammel, Nancy Chamberlain, Bradley Castleberry, Donald Boone, D. Butler, Billy Garrett, Connie Ellis, Kaye Wallace, Jesse Bennett, Brenda Ahlsley, Gladys Bryant, Curtis Ferrell, Larry Cox, Mrs. Larry Cox; 1971-Jimmy Smith, Juanita Dubose, Teresa Collins Armstrong, Pam Baker, Beth Barber, John Barber, Mike Deer, Martha Newby, Liz Palmer, Tom Prather, Don Winter; 1972-Darrell Boggs, Debra Brown, Linda Lipscomb, Gary Pearce, Michael Lansing, David Langerfield, Margaret Davis, Jason Carlisle, Evelyn Nations, Charles Ray, Martha Newby, Nell Green, Eli F. 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Omarkhail, Jen Brown, Wade Fulgham, Suzy Valentine, Julie Woods, Vanessa Purvis, Jamie Stewart, Holly Hollman, Pandi Pass, Loretta Rivers, Brenda Evans, Lisa Turner, Lisa Batson, Peggy Reece, Trey Arinder, Darla Kling, Mark Longino, Pam Williams, Lisa Dixon, Kyle Welch, Lara Burford, Wes McComas, Melanie Buntyn, Pam Wolfe, Kenneth Briggs, Becky Overby, Susan Ballard, Ken Parker, Allen Boland, Kim Graham; 1988 - Melanie Buntyn, Matt Williams, Jeff Hillman, Kim Kizer, Alice Bullock, Scott Crawford, Stacey Norris, Paul Woolery, Bobbie King, David Hudson Rusty Thomaston, Melissa West, Kerry Bass, Jon Ginn, Jim McCown, Leslie Swilley, Michelle Miller, Jeff Dean, Kara Bowling, Rayna Martin, Laura Leigh Barnes, Perr Pugh, Lisa Dandy, I Debi Rushing, Sue Ethridge, Kevin Parker, Kara Longmire, Darren Miley, Anna Green, Missy Hester, Lanette Kuhn, Mendy Kellum, Dara Pickering, Kathy Nichols, Melissa Gatlin; 1989-Ch Gray, Andrea Greer, Darla Kling, Ethan McCarty, Ruben Raquel, Angela Renfrow, Wesley Barrett, Kinsey Goldman, Tracy Milligan, Leslie Swilley, Jack Kean, Tina Williams, Kathy Alfred Hollman, Brad James, Bryan Robertson, Melvin McLemore, Jr., Thelma Penton, Paige Tracey, Brian Bosarge, Nicole Hensley, Wade Arnold, Lisa Lewis, Neece Lummus, Tanna McCarty, S Donna Smith, Brenda Wolfe, Amy Moore, Tricia Babb, Tammy Hutchinson, Allen Spencer, Laura Leigh Barnes, Kim Robertson, Cliff Story, Jon Kittrell, Robin Turner, Hugh Freeze, Scott V Leslie Stokes, Gervaise Chuah, Jon Kittrell, Traci Stovall, Stacy Broadwater, Elisa Dickerson, Evelyn Minton, Michelle Hancock, Ann Tullow, Beth Anglin, Jessica Atteberry, Amy Cameron, Melvin McLemore, Jr., Thomas Roots, Peggy Sue Floyd, Heidi Milner, Susan Hight, Shanell Grayson, Stacey Jackson, Sandra George, JoAnna Gerald, Charles Jackson, Jr., Walter Allen, Sha Troy Marshall, Stephanie Patrick, John Snyder, David Wallace, Tammy Jo Williams, Pam Brown, Keyta Pannell; 1991-Keith Conner, Hugh Freeze, Rowland Hall, Marty Lipscomb, Scott M Stacey Woodruff, Noel Alsbrook, Kim Baradell, LeGina Bishop, Kevin Bower, Stacy Broadwater, Gervaise Chuah, Kathryn Clayton, Christy Dabbs, Tiffany Downs, Jon Fancher, Bradley G Ronnie Pannell, Shelly Peeples, Melanie Rogers, Scott Savell, Beverly Stank, Dena Townsend, Anna Walker, Brenda Gray, Eric Smith, Becky Courtney, Tanya Gracey, Debbie Moore, April Rodney Dobbs, Brian Tatum, Stacy O'Quinn, Hope Eavenson, Shelton Ivey, Sissy Merritt, Holly Hardin, Sandy Pierce, Stephen Smith, Seleste Leach, Leah Meadows, Rose Bradley, JoAnna Bennett, Lori Clark, Becky Courtney, Jenny Crigler, Pam Guntharp, Erik Holder, Daniel Hyams, Jamie Justice, Tawanna Posey, Jana Rayborn, Beverly Stank, Thomas Jamieson, Melanie Rog Charles Jackson, Jr., Humphrey Ju, Jennifer Lagg, Monica Smith, Mackie Wells, Jody Goussset, Judy Jenkins, David Johnson, Phillip Thornton, Jennifer Colburn, Keith Conner, Chris O'Daniel Kimberly Massey, Kim Simmons, Kim Herrington, Albert Moore, Joy Sewell, Chris Stewart, Bobby Daniel, Brock Williams, Gretchen Kleeb, Michael Smith, Shane Ard, Kim Cagle, Kim La Laird, Joey Lott, Jeff Mann, Shauna Moody, Jake Roudkovski, Jason Rutherford, Vonda Bounds, Stacy McLain, April Andrews, Clay Anthony, Kevin Bower, Cindy Bullock, George Carter, Tim Pippin, Georgia Spence, Robin Garrett, Russell Barnes, Trudy Routh, Toby Johnston, Chris Brown, Nathan Carroll, Bobby Daniel, Albert Moore, Allyson Bridges, Jackie Chatel, Keith C Mark Davis, Stewart Moody, April Hicks, Erik Holder, Wes McMichael, Jana Rayborn, Kathryn Clayton, Charles Jackson, Angi Donald, Rachelle Dunn, Darnell Isaac, Kim South, Michael A Herrington, Phil Keller, Tori Laffoon, Cindy Magee, Todd Rayburn, Aimee Turner, Judy Jenkins, Pam Brown, Ellen Smith, Ginger Stalls; 1994-Kay Abbey, Christy Abbott, Anne Albritton, Micah Carter, Jennifer Cooper, Shane Crawford, Angela Crocker, Alan Cross, David Fordham, Micah Ginn, Carla Glenn, Kristie Godwin, Norm Goering, Mendez Goldman, Ricky Grant, Ap Meador, Thad Merritt, Janice Miller, Lee Mills, Kenne Morrison, Ethan Nanney, Thomas Nations, Phil Nelson, Kelli O'Brien, Kim Paes, David Patterson, Russell Pearce, Rhonda Phillips, Ly Sanders, Mike Satcher, Chad Sipes, Tracy Smiley, Derrick Smith, Heather Smith, Martha Smith, Kim South, Shane Sprayberry, Cheryl Steffensrud, Davis Stringer, Becky Suggs, Jennifer Tay Jennifer York; 1995-Sydney Abernathy, Paula Anglin, Jeanne Bennett, Leanne Bennett, Carrie Bevell, Vickie Blakely, Tina Brewer, Laura Burnett, Justin Busby, Shane Callicutt, Eric Campbb Dougherty, Amy Fletcher, Christy Gavin, Mark Gibson, B.J. 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Evans, Jerry Rankin, Ruth Holland, Sarah Kimbrough, Randy Foster, Linda Gayle Ganaway; 1964-Irving Hitt, Charles Montgomery, Carol Martin, Pat Maxwell; 1965-Diane Davis, ople, Emogene Roebuck, Connie Roediger, Robert Tischer, Ed Hamilton, Danny Hood, Kay Murphree, Martha Gray; 1967-Martha Gray, Robert Sellers, Hilda Harper, Louie Farmer, Jr., Ann art, Kenny Morton, Ben Ogletree, Irene Letchworth, Van Williams, Brenda Royals, Tom Prevost, Mrs. Tom Prevost, Violet Lanier, Harold Anderson, Sharon Glover, Jimmy Williams, Karen oone, Deborah Doolittle, Paul Lee, Kathy Harvill, Jane Clower; 1970-Ed Causey, Brenda Spencer, Jo Ann Johnson, Dennis Johnsey, Kathy Little, Marion King, Linda Ballard, Nancy Willis, Jennie Collins, David Bell, Sherrill Dillion, Sally Murphy, Jimmy Palmer, Billy Jernberg, Jana Moore, Jane Sherman, Gene Theriot, Terry Mahan, Robert Catrett, Edwin Dedeaux, Nelsie Hughes, Daniel e, Michele Rogers, Becky Henderson, Walter Barfield, Johnny Gore, Judy McCormick, Wayne Herrington, Larry Henderson, Dan Jones, Lydia Jones, Patti Hardon, David Jones, Mary Dee l, John Powell; 1973-Sara Guest, Buddy Stallings, Robert Baggett, Patricia Burleson, Karl Wallace, Ellen Fleming, Robert Shearer, Vickie Sue Freeman, Patricia Gilbert, Linda Sinquefield, Charles Birchwell, Terry Booth, Phillip Johnsey, Barbara Street, Edward Austin, Lynn Lyons; 1974-Ed Austin, Marilyn Clark, Mary Lee Jones, Rhona Cartwright, Roger Jefcoat, Clay Moore, Donnie e Canterbury, Eugene Neal, Myra Howell, David Calder, Kathy West, Richard Harvey, Rose Marie Davidson, Bill Cumberland, Teri Lee Gillis, Lucy Parks, Henry Palmer Triplett, Deborah Jane olleyman, Carol Ann Lowther, Marci Zachary, Don Hulsey, Sharon Smith, Barbara Hosey, Lynn Evans, Brenda Hunt, Debra Brown, Mike Lunceford, Sue Vuncannon, Earl Bowie, Brenda Sherry Howell, Cathy Abrams, Robert Baker, Billy Boyd, Lisa Brannon; 1976-Rick Axtell, Phyllis Mullins, Janie Boykin, Don Richards, Sherry Berryman, Mark White, Kent Mummert, Cynthia James Gilbert Hearn, Lisa Joan Hiatt, Sheila Deweese, Carol Beattie, Debra Jean Baxter, John Earl Cochram, Terry Dent, Bradley Ward, Lisa Brannan, Joy Jennings, James Randy Davis, Renelda er; 1977-Barbara Smith, Steve Hooker, Patricia Colville, John Stanley, Bob Gross, Ed Broadhead, Al Fike, Loretta Reynolds, Kathy Staggs, Paul Rodgers, Lisa Brannan, Marcia Brewer, Carolyn le, Ellisha Adams, Robbin Raulerson, Cindy Wilson, Janet Lyle, Susan Underwood, Joanne Myrick, Valorie Brewer, Ronnie Killebrew, Dell Crosby, Tracy Crenshaw, Debbie Hehn, Sheree Tynes, arty, Van Stone, Janet Lyle, Paula Smith, Tom Martin, Kathy Staggs, Anne Jones, Daryl Coats, Luanne Travis, Don Dent, Trudy Nash, Martin King, Becky Ratliff, Steve Smith, Vidonia Puckett, Blackstock, Doug Houston, Emily Peach, Melissa Hudson, Larry Redd, Tim Sullivan, Denise Morgan, Susan Underwood, Jimmy Davis, Vickie Mooneyhan, John Cole, Stan Anders, Tanya Waters, Kay Cassibry, Peggy Ray, Linda Moore, Barbara Smith, Michele Morgan; 1979-Bill, Branch, Chris Smith, Jeff Keyes, Gail Gilbert, Jerre Vance, Elizabeth Applewhite, Linda Snell, Susan Ratcliff, riffin, Cindy Wall, LuAnn Patton, Michael Davis, Susan Thigpen, Beth Spencer, Bernice Balch, Ricky Turner, Karen Burks, Marian Menhel, Mary Wade, Stanley Reid, Daryl Horton, Linda ecca Arceneaux, Louis May, Cathy Harris, Lori Carpenter, Tambria Britton, Deadra Williams, Marlene Boudreaux, Karen Denson, Monica Powell, Matt Adams, Bruce Lowry, Dennis Rape; 1980-urgin, Carla Whitt, Melinda Aldison, Pam Randle, Todd Rogers, Donald Tyrone, Mary Wade, Regina Terry, Troy Gibbons, Tracy Peacock, Kaye Wilson, Janice Britt, Bud Edwards, Alicia Gunn, da Jackson, Laura Thomason, Dianne Dunlap, Gail Griffin, Cindy Beech, Marilyn Parks, Laura Pratt, Gind Pearson, Brian Horton, Greg Stewart, Sandra Martin, Sandra Walker, George Robinson, Johnson Marla DeVaughn, Sam Dunaway, Ann Southerland, Tanya Rowe Bill Bustin; 1981 - Lilly Jolly, Terry Rowe, Jane Robertson, Clark Stewart, Bud Edwards, Robin Jumper, Ricky Kelly, a, Jennie Mathis, Jo Beth Pope, Greg Smith, Lydia Walker, Dena Barnes, Marty Harper, Linda Powell, Pam Pybas, DeAnne Carroll, Janice Stuart, Terri Novay, Melanie Emerson, Beth Hooker, r McWhorter, Nancy Middleton, Deborah Cruse, Sheryl Griffin, Lisa Smith, Nancy Hopps, Randy Carver, Boyd Smith; 1982-Jamie Verell, Hunter Huff, Tim Glaze, Rhonda Stamps, Mary Brooks, all, Tom Miller, Diane Dearman, Jodi Wilcox, Tommy Pinson, Beth Barnett, Joni Igglehart, Jo Ann Barlow, Ronald Meeks, Roberta Clower, Vickie Worthy, Jerry East, Ronnie Chaney, Rhonda ass, David Trelles, Laura Wigington, Tina Gordon, Selena Bedwell, Jeannette Herring, Jan Jenkins, Jason Thornton, Nancy Clement, Walker Downs, Freda McCarty, Sandy Phillips, Mark er, Amy Frederick, Cathy Pratt, Todd Rogers, Sandy Phillips, Jeff Marter, Randy Stephenson, Kary Whitehead, Cecile Reeves, Kim Cawthorn, Wendell Dodd, Tony Osborne, Marcia Broome, Sumner, Tracey Beasley, Scott Carlin, Cherise Ayers, Suzy Washburn, Rusty Keyes, David Minnis, Penny Lofton, Haley Hughes, Laura Davis, Donna Denny, Daniel Hathorne, Deborah Miller, l, Carol Leake, Julie Roberson, Mark Mathis, Sarah Crumpton, Rose Byers, Valerie Ertle, Sherra Mott, Melanie Reeves, Gayle McQueen, Belinda Eberhardt, Raymond Caldwell, David Taylor, uburn, Scotty Goldman, Dennis Atwood, Suzanne Schwarzauser, Linda Moore, Neal Fowler, Tami Doleac, Jeri Neil, Sandra Neal, Camilla Holzer, Suzy Valentine, Sherri West, Rusty Keyes, James i Avant, Linda Halfacre, James Germany, Donald Balch, Travis Tramel, Alisa Cottingham, Tony Pounders, John Stroud, Nina Sheives, Darleen Smith, Angela Smith, Robyn Douglas, Teresa elissa Everett, Brenda Reed, Rhonda Waldo, Lenora Salley, Jeff Barnes, Shari Lee; 1985-Billy Windham, Mindy Pardue, Terry Stella, Paula Daughety, Melanie Crockett, Scott Valentine, Mark Dale Amason, Johnette Sherrill, Dale Tadlock, Jone Whatley, Connie Smith, Jackie Ard, Trina Nichols, Ana Hernandez, Cindy Burleson, Chris Reny, Karen Mardis, Gaylia Townsley, Greg Kelly, nna Hamilton, Mike Hood, Margie Weeks, Phelan Nichols, Lisa Campbell, Terry Willoughby, Lesley Shivers, Dara Delk, Lisa Smith, Candy Waters, Howard Dodson, Mike Okom, Jeff Shaw, ara Compere, Andy Thaggard, Missy Stafford, Charlie Mae Smith, Mary Ellen Thomas, Winnie Walmsley, Allen Boland, Deana Rushton; 1986 - Annette Almand, Jackie Ard, Angie Atkins, Susan Crews, Jennifer Dean, Tammy Dew, Keith DuBard, Adrian Fairchild, Jeanene Ford, Wade Fulgham, Penny Green, Scott Green, Kevin Hand, Michael Hood, Janet Houston, Scott Hummel, Marsha ash, Robyn Noble, Mindy Pardue, Vernon Peacock, Gary Permenter, Renita Ponder, Frank Porter, Todd Prather, Debra Pratt, Sonya Runnels, Shelly Sasser, Judy Shanks, Kathy Sigurnjak, Sara hail, Jennifer Dean, Perry Pugh, Laurie Sanford, Elsy Harvey, Marty Williams, Penni Brown, Philip Davidson, Kenny McCollough, Angela Rush, Scott Vaughn, Frank Porter, Jackie Ard, Mark ce, Trey Kendrick, Donette Blaine, Lynn McFadden, Ceeltie Hyche, Angela Hutson, Melanie McMinn, Donna Sherwood, Bobbie King, Jay Reed, Melinda Mathews, Karen Patterson, Gwenda ard, Kerr Dykes, Vicky Buit, Judy Locke, Doug Slayton, Grace Burton, Jenny Little, Wendy Smith, LaVada Strickland, Matt Williams, Teresa Davis, Mary Frances Taylor, Emily Bradford, Kevin id Hudson, Charles Mullins, Suzy Parkerson, Vanessa Purvis, Donna McCombs, Laure Blount, Kim Robertson, Mary Nell Van Devender, John Bagwell, Bill Gaddis, Amy Parker, Tanya Riley, eady, Loretta Rivers, De De Manney, Christi Gray, Rusty Sappington, Anne Brannon, Susan Williams, Susan Peugh, Michelle Joyner, John Griffin, Melissa Rogers, Danny Ellis, Selena Mangum, 1989-Chris Harbin, Eddy Shoemaker, Anne Mabry, Kevin Johnson, Denise Riley, Buddy Landry, Susan Peugh, Veronne Poole, Lawrence White, Kevin Williams, Jan Carley, Shea Dungan, Christi y Alfred, Carrie Blackmon, Danita Brown, Barri Turner, Chuck Brister, Kathy Nichols, Jennifer Pce, Heather Watson, Lynn Calder, Brett Campbell, Kim Meador, Kim Pierce, Sara Barker, Jodi Carty, Stacy Broadwater, Kim Hood, Selena Mangum, Carol Blackwell, Scott Jones, Selest Leach, Lori Ard, Dwayne Doyle, Thomas Jamieson, Ken Johnson, Terry Phillips, Leigh-Anne Easom, Scott Walters, Linda Wolfe, Tina Scarbrough, Michelle Young, Donna Henderson, Jared Porter; 1990-Jay Bullen, Tracy Fortenberry, Thelma Penton, Paige Tracey, Anne Brannon, Jan Cole, ameron, Gala Herron, Susan Lee, Shell Oglesby, Lisa Sullivan, Lesley Vance, Steven Wright, Lorie Rowland, Lisa Calder, Ruben Raquel, Scott Marler, Lisa Thompson, Chris Twilley, Lori Embry, llen, Shay Berthelson, Patricia Scoggin, Nona Walker, Christina McGee, Tonya Pitts, Barri Turner, Lisa Hatcher, Mary Helen Collins, Mike Hester, Jared Porter, Wendi Bryant, Andrea Hullum, Scott Marler, Heather McCullar, Jill Vaughn, Lori Ard, Dianne Coxwell, Christopher Henry, Rhonda Hensarling, Beth Hickman, Michael Kell, Lisa Thompson, Kim Herrington, Roddy Reed, adley Golmon, Pam Guntharp, Brent Guy, Sandy Hilliard, Penny King, Susan Lee, Kent Marshall, Melinda McAdams, Albert Moore, Melanie Murphy, Roselyn Nichols, Kimberly Oglesbee, re, April Smith, Tim Bumpus, Jeff Pinnow, Benita Roberts, David Thurman, Lori Walker, Jennifer Conrad, Tammie Laird, Mickey Parker, Mindy Wooley, Jeff Gardner, Jill Walker, David Wallace, oAnna Gerald, Brian Hill, Trudy Routh, Michael Bowers, Amy Castillo, Daniel Hyams, James Jolly, Dawn Kelly, Chris Kennedy, Greg Quillin, Scott Walters, Charles Jackson; 1992-Glenn anie Rogers, Brian Hill, Susan Lee, Missy Smith, David Thurman, Chris Twilley, Alan Savell, John Bullock, David Carley, Stephanie Garland, Susan Heiden, Tanya Holly, Stephanie Houston, O'Daniel, Kristin Ulsteen, Jenny Jones, Valerie Faulkenberry, Lorie Rowland, Heather Arnold, Carmen Breland, Chris Kennedy, Angie Donald, Charlie Griffith, Suzan Joblin, Rod Martin, Kim Lawson, Roselyn Nichols, Trey Wooton, Liz Allen, Jennifer Malone, Becky Stiedle, Lori Lorden, Jason Shankle, Heidi Milner, Kim Paes, Andy Black, Mike Galloway, Brad Benton, Jan Carter, Amy Harris, Tara Ishee, Michael Kelly, II, Kraig Smith, Mickye Williams, Jay Wyatt; 1993-Heather Arnold, Jason Blackburn, Laura Burnett, Jonathan Miles, Melissa Morgan, Theo Parson, Keith Gardner, Darek Melton, Gregory Woodward, Carmen Breland, Becky Courtney, Jan Gilbreath, Susan Hales, Cherish Johnson, Amy Leggett, Julie Magee, April Presnell, Keith Simpson, Michael Aoa, Kristen Bush, Christy Byrd, Brian Campbell, David Thurman, Rita Ezell, Robin Reid, Kim Prime, Amy Stevens, Julia Massey, John Works, Christy Abbott, Charles Blake, Boyd lbritton, Michael Aoa, Bonnie Barker, Kenny Belvin, Stacy Bishop, Heather Bullock, Andy Burczynski, Laura Burnett, Nicki Burns, Robby Burns, Toni Campbell, Nathan Carroll, Annette Carter, rant, April Harper, Christen Havens, Eddie Henley, Crystal Hill, Karen Ivy, Matt Jacobsen, Willie Jefferson, Kelly Keyes, Lee Lewis, Tracy Lewis, Joey Lott, John Maxey, Brian McDonald, Kristy ills, Lynita Pinkston, Amber Powell, Bob Purvis, Jason Raines, Jana Rayborn, Kay Reichenbach, Ryan Richardson, Marlane Rodabough, Jennifer Rowland, Micah Rutland, Cher Sanders, Dave nifer Taylor, Cynthia Thornton, Jennifer Thornton, David Thurman, Leslie Trigg, III, Tina Triplett, Emily Turner, Ashley Vickers, Kevin Walker, Kris Walters, Marie White, JoAnn Williams, e Campbell, Micah Carter, John Chappelle, Heidi Cheatham, Tory Cheatham, Ashlea Christy, Jason Coker, Jason Craig, Jennifer Curry, Dee Dee Daffron, Debbie Darbonne, Robin Dean, Alisa Stephanie Hill, Andy Holder, Michelle Ivy, Matt Jacobsen, Chris Jones, LeAnne Jones, Christy Kirkendoll, Kara Kirschbaum, Tori Laffoon, Brandy Lane, Pamela Lenard, Philip Lundy, Timothy lunk, Shawnda Pope, Paul Pratt, Chad Redditt, Holly Reeves, Rena Register, Ryan Richardson, Dawn Robbins, Patti Rone, Kim Royce, Shelby Sanders, Joy Sewell, Christie Smith, Dawn Smith, Brad White, Marie White, Jennifer Wiggins, Anthony Williams, JoAnn Williams, Andy Winn, Karen Yawn; 1996-Amy Archer, Chad Ball, Dawn Beck, Stephen Byrd, Micah Carter, Tory Fisher, Kara Gaines, Angie Henderson, Bart Hickey, Mandy Higgins, Lara Hudson, Amanda Hughes, Leigh Hughey, Deborah Jenkins, Judy Jenkins, Donna Johnson, Hollie Jordan, Kristi Kelley, n Nagy, Jess Oakes, Marcia de Oliveira, Robin Pennington, Dewayne Phillips, Shannon Phillips, Jeremy Polk, Dana Rasbury, Jason Reeves, Holly Reeves, Rena Register, Heather Roan, Ara Beth oms, Larry Tubb, Emily Turner, Serena Vogel, Lynn Walter, Jeff Walters, Valerie Wanzo, Hope Weaver, Kevin Wiggins; 1997-Kelly Anderson, Ashley Austin, Michael Banes, Jeff Bankston, Lauren y, Tory Cheatham, James Cheatham, Paul Crestman Jr, J. Clark, Christy Connerley, Neal Creecy, Rohan Crown, Billy Davis, Kim Davis, Leslie Dickerson, Travis Dunlap, Elizabeth Dunlap, Jason Guinene Haynes, Michelle Herrin, Tasha Herrington, Michelle Hitt, Keri Holder, Steven Holifield, Todd Holloman, David Horner, Jamie House, Jody Huerta, Amanda Hughes, Ty Irons, Dawn ys, Tia McArthur, Marissa McGee, Katie McNeece, Jason Meaux, Joy Merriman, Joanna Miley, Cherolyn Mitchell, Beth Morgan, Jennie Morgan, Cheryl Newman, James Nixon, Scott Norris, Rickman, Stacey Riker, Kevin Rinehart, Fish Robinson, Meredith Roten, Carrie Sanders, Rebecca Scarbrough, Amy Shaw, Rob Smith, Carrie Stone, Tasha Sullivan, Stephanie Tisdale, Kristin

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witnesses." Hebrews 12:1

Pray this day for...

July 11-24, 1997

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*Our greatest source of confidence in prayer is God's character, not our goodness.
Our assurance in prayer comes primarily from the nature of God. God's character as forgiving, good and rich in faithful love, gives us boldness to come to Him in prayer.
We know we can trust Him to do what is right.*

Give thanks to God that on Sunday, May 17, more than 50 people were baptized at the registered Mu Chou Lu Christian Church in Nanjing, China. Another 50 were baptized the following Sunday.

Women's Recognition Sunday (CAC Emphasis). Thank God for the many capable women who fill important Christian leadership positions throughout our nation.

For RA Challenger Camp; Central Hills Retreat (Bro) For GA Camp; Garaywa (WMU) For Miss. Baptist All-State Youth Choir 14-22; William Carey College (CM)

For Regional ASSISTeam; Emmanuel BC, Grenada/ N Oxford BC, Oxford; (SS) For Super Summer; Miss. College; 21-25 (D&FM) For Young Musicians Conf.; Blue Mountain College; 21-25 (CM)

For the churches and missionaries in Macau as they continue to do follow-up work on the more than 200 persons who accepted Christ in April when evangelist Luis Palau held a one-day crusade.

For Regional ASSISTeam Training; Crossgates BC, Brandon/FBC, Columbia; 7-9 pm (SS)

Missionary Ron Roy has a weekly discipleship time with a family of five who are his neighbors. Pray that this family, as well as others, will be instrumental in beginning a work in Lomas, Uruguay.

Pray for new personnel as they begin to adjust to life in Bangladesh and to learn the Bengali language and culture.

For Town & Country Church Music Conf.; Woodville BC, Woodville, 17-18 (CM)

For Town & Country Church Music Conf.; FBC, Collins (CM) For Church Media Library Leadership Conf.; GSBA 24-25 (Broadcast) For II Growing Churches Through Bible Study, 24-26; A Conference for Training All SS Leaders; GSBA (MBCB)

For Lad/Dad Weekend Camp, 11-12; Central Hills Retreat (Bro)

For I Centrifuge, 12-17; Gulfshore Assembly (BSSB)

For Town & Country Church Music Conference, Shady Grove BC, Hazlehurst, 18-19 (CM) For GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 5 pm, 18th-noon, 19th; (WMU)

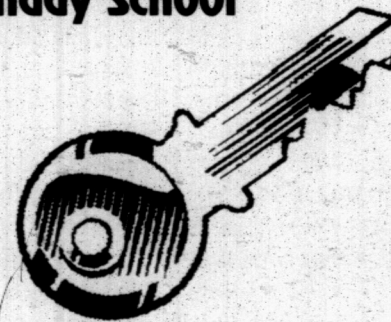
For II Centrifuge 19-24; GSBA (BSSB)

KEYS TO PLANNING FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

- 1. **Elect and train your Church Leadership Team (Church Council or Key Leaders).**
- 2. **Order 1997-98 Church Design Handbook (601-968-3800 or 800-748-1651).**
- 3. **Write or review your church's Mission Statement.**
- 4. **Select a few Priority Concerns for 1997-98.**
- 5. **Set one or more measurable goals for each priority concern for 1997-98.**
- 6. **Develop action plans for each goal for 1997-98.**
- 7. **Correlate action plans into your church calendar for 1997-98.**
- 8. **Build your church budget for the new year.**
- 9. **Present your plans to the church for discussion and approval.**

RESOURCES ON PLANNING

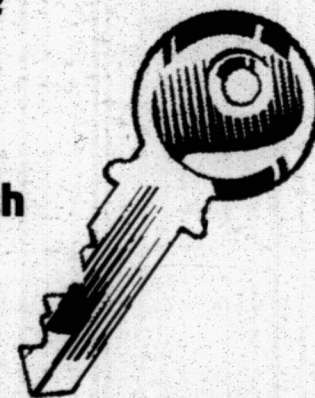
"Church Leadership Team Handbook"
Product number 5201-18
Baptist Sunday School Board



"1997-98 Church Design Handbook"
Ministry Office
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Church Administration Magazine May 1997
Baptist Sunday School Board

"Planning Video on Using Church Design Handbook"
Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



"A Uniform Method of Church Leadership"
Executive Director
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

HOUSE TOPS

rienced as our once mission minded SBC has seemed to be leaning more and more on man's knowledge than on God's wisdom and the power of the Holy Spirit to move God's people forward in the evangelization of the world.

I, too, think the proposed pay scale for the upcoming NAMB employees is too high. As I read Hogue's viewpoint, I could only wonder how he evaluates the worth of Jesus' ministry.

Jesus gave his all out of love. Surely, if the love of God constrains persons to accept positions on the NAMB, those persons will be willing to serve his

great cause whether or not their salaries are in line with those of corporate American executives.

Sacrificial giving has been at the heart of Southern Baptist work. Could greed at the top impair the heart and slow down the flow of support for missions?

Thank you for keeping us informed.

Frances Smith
Jackson

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Editor:

For the last three years I have been an International

Coordinator with ASPECT Foundation, an international student exchange program, and have personally experienced the cultural challenges along with the wonderful rewards of hosting and supervising teenagers from all over the world.

I know there are many families out there who have thought about hosting a student but they are waiting for the "right time". When? By nature, Americans are busy with full schedules. We keep saying "later" and the right time never seems to come.

ASPECT Foundation students want to be a part of your families

and contribute to your busy lives. They have their own spending money, and are fully insured.

We are looking for loving families who can provide a loving home life, room and board — a very small price to pay for the rewards of a lasting relationship with a new son or daughter, not to mention the wonderful cultural exchange.

Mississippi is branching out and learning so much about our world. Why not join in a continuing cultural exchange that happens for ten months of each year with ASPECT. We have students ready to arrive at our International Airport at Jackson beginning in August. You can call me at (601) 267-0341, and bring an exchange student into your home.

Barbara Fulton
ASPECT Coordinator
Carthage

BE ENCOURAGED

Editor:

One of the members of the class "Experiencing God," as we were invited to share our feelings, confessed that he became discouraged at times.

My observation to the class member was in essence: "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Then more recently, I had an experience which confirmed my counsel. We had started a Spanish speaking Sunday School class in our church. I had ordered literature in Spanish. I turned to the beginning of the quarterly and saw the name of Alfredo Quezada!

Some thirty five years ago I was serving as missionary of the Santiago, Chile area.

Some time later I was at a meeting at our seminary in Santiago. I asked Alfredo Quezada how he decided to come to the seminary.

His answer was something like this. "Do you remember when you preached at a young people's meeting at Blanquedo? You gave an invitation and almost before I knew it I was up front." There he was in the Seminary.

Now he is a pastor in Florida and a writer for Sunday School lessons in Spanish! You can imagine my encouragement!

So I still say, 'Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.'

John A. Parker
Lexington, Va.

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The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.

There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.

God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Staying Well Informed

How Does Magnetic Resonance Imaging Work?

Technology often has the capacity to amaze and astound us. Many technological developments are so complex they confuse even the most educated. But as the pace of medical technology has increased, physicians find themselves armed with more tools to help patients get better. One such tool is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

MRI is a revolutionary diagnostic imaging technology that provides remarkably detailed pictures of the body without the dangers of ionizing radiation. Instead, MRI uses a magnetic field.

During the procedure, the patient is placed within the magnet, and radio waves are passed through the body. The results can be viewed on a screen, giving a clear picture of organs and tissues.

New, Cutting-Edge Technology

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center will soon finish installation of one of the most advanced MRI systems available. The new machine has a highly-advanced computer, allowing three-dimensional imaging for very detailed studies of even the tiniest body structures.

With the new machine, patients spend less time in the diagnostic room, and the system's wider opening allows for patients up to 550 pounds. This is also beneficial for patients with claustrophobia, since the patient's head is out of the scanner for many procedures. Shielding allows parents and loved ones to be in the room to comfort the patient during the procedure.

MRI means better, faster and more detailed analysis of the body than ever before. But technology alone cannot heal. Technology must be used along with God-given wisdom, experience and understanding by people who care. At Baptist, we'll always strive to offer you the best of modern technology coupled with the best of human caring. Together, they can work wonders.

Understanding the Benefits of Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Call 948-MBMC or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262)
for more information.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Roofers needed

Agape Outpost Baptist Chapel in Breckenridge, Colo., has requested a team

of 10-15 people to assist in roofing a new building on their property. For more information, contact Bill

Hardy, Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions Coordinator, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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B&H books nominated

Experiencing God

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — In a first for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers, the trade edition of "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby and Claude King has been named one of five finalists for the Gold Medallion Christian Book of the Year.

Another finalist is "The Purpose Driven Church" by pastor Rick Warren, published by Zondervan.

Warren is pastor of one of

Southern Baptists' fastest-growing congregations, Saddleback Community Church in Southern California.

Other finalists are "Beginning of the End" by John Hagee, published by Thomas Nelson; "In the Grip of Grace" by Max Lucado, published by Word; and "Left Behind" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, published by Tyndale.

The winner of Gold Medallion Book of the Year award will be announced July 12 by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Children of West Shady Grove Church, Waynesboro, collected \$300 for the Baptist Children's Village during VBS.

County Line (Copiah): July 14-18; 6-9 p.m.; Timothy Myers, pastor.

First, Marion (Lauderdale): July 21-25; 1-4 p.m.; Walter M. Blackman, pastor.

HOMEcomings

Malmaison, Carrollton: July 13; Wayne King, former pastor, preaching at 11 a.m. worship service; dinner in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. singing, Gospelaires, Pontotoc; Sonny Redwine is pastor.

First Eudora, Hernando: July 20; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; meal at Northwest Training Center, 12:30 p.m.; Larry Rowsey, worship leader; Steve Albonetti, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: July 27; 11 a.m.; noon meal; Marion Spence, pastor, speaker; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, Pelahatchie, music.

Macedonia, Brookhaven: July 20; 10:30 a.m.; dinner on

grounds, 11:45 a.m.; Jerry Mixon, Lucedale, guest speaker; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Robert H. Perry Sr., pastor.

Wellman, Bogue Chitto: July 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. with Steve Smith, former pastor, preaching, followed by a meal; 1:15 p.m. singing with Mary McCain and New Wine; offering taken for cemetery fund

and memorial service will be highlighted with books being placed in the library in memory of members who have died since July 1, 1996; Jim Everett is pastor.

First, Pontotoc: July 27; 10:50 a.m.; noon meal; 2 p.m. singing; "Walk By Faith," Pontotoc, guest singers; Kermit McGregor, Mendenhall, guest speaker; William H. Sims III, pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Calvary, Columbus: July 13-17; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 12:15 and 7 p.m.; James Parker, Farmerville, La., evangelist; Rusty Thomaston, Columbus, music; Roy D. Hawkins, pastor.

Moak's Creek (Lincoln): July 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish/ lunch at noon, and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Huey Moak, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Billy J. Howse, pastor.

Lone Star Church, Collins: July 11-13; Fri., and Sat., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, Oakvale Church, evangelist; Madelyn Easterling, music director; Beverly Davis, pianist; L. C. Anthony, interim pastor.

Johns (Rankin): July 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Ed Perrette, evangelist; K. W. Douglas, music; Howard Benton, pastor.

Malmaison, Carrollton: July 20-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. each evening; Johnny Walker, Winona, evangelist; Barry Hathcock and Chris Hollis, music; Sonny Redwine, pastor.

Crystal Ridge (Winston): July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Glenn Kelly, Westminster, S.C.,

evangelist; Carol Pugh, Carolyn Hisaw, and Janeese Eubanks, music; Wayne Hill, pastor.

Central, McComb: July 20-23; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; W. A. Smith, Madison, evangelist; Elmo Mercer, guest speaker for Sunday evening service; Brent Manasco, youth and education; Mike Everett, music; Mike Everrett, pastor.

Macedonia, Brookhaven: July 20-23; services, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, Lucedale, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Robert H. Perry Sr., pastor.

Elmo Church, Fayette (Union): July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, consultant in the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, speaker; Corky Evans, pastor.

Gillsburg (Mississippi): July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 7 p.m.; Greg Potts, Vancleave, evangelist; Steve Bishop, Summit, music; A. J. Ogden, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: July 27-Aug. 1; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Grant McElveen, Antioch Church, Simpson County, evangelist; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, Pelahatchie, music; Marion Spence, pastor.

First, Marion (Lauderdale): Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ben James, Toomsba, evangelist; Eddie Wells, Meridian, music; Walter M. Blackman, pastor.



Fannie Wilson, 95, was recognized as the oldest VBS worker at Wanilla Church, Monticello. She is pictured with Jayde Pennington, the youngest nursery member.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Holland and Hill

First Church, Vicksburg, held a note burning for renovation on June 8. Pictured are Jeff Holland, chairman of the executive committee; and Tom Hill, chairman of renovation steering committee.

New Life Church, McLain, will host a Prophecy Conference, July 24-27, with Ed Vallowe, evangelist. The conferences will be held Thurs., 7 p.m.; Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. and 7

p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Jerry Rawls is pastor. For more information, call (601) 753-2280.

Elmo Church, Roxie, will sponsor a meal (4-6 p.m.) and singing for the church building fund on July 19. The singing will begin at 7 p.m. with Bob Scott and The Sweet Spirits. Carl Evans is pastor.

Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on July 20. Worship services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with dinner on the grounds at noon. Former pastors who will be on program are Thomas J. Wood, George Turner, Maurice Wicker, Merlin Liverman, Rodrick Conerly, Tom Vassar, Steve Griffin, and Scott Cappleman. Steve Bishop will direct the music.

First Church, Pearl, will host a Parenting Seminar on July 18



Luka Church, Tishomingo Association, recognized 14 GAs at a special service on May 18. Girls pictured (front row) are LeeAnn Murrah, Erin James, Erin James, Stephanie South, Haley Hogeland, and Leslie Datsis; (second row) Anna Kent, Erin Wade, Monica Jones, Aimee Kirk, Leah Killingsworth, Farrah Frazier, Whitney Bowling, and Lana Arnold; (back row) Deborah Grimes, Renee Jones, Debbie Kirk, and Jan Shoffit, leaders. Jim Manley is pastor.

and 19. The times are 6-9 p.m. with a light meal on Friday and 9 a.m.-noon with brunch on Saturday. For more information, call the church at (601) 939-4476.

Nia will be in concert at Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland, on Monday, July 14

at 7 p.m. Nia is a sincere, energetic, and totally professional singer/songwriter from the land of the great revival, the heart of Wales in the United Kingdom. Carl Savell is pastor. Raymond A. Ball is minister of music. For more information, call the church at (601) 856-4031.

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Indianola, has called **Greg Bowers** as pastor, effective June 29. A native of Memphis, Bowers is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn. and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served churches in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Texas.



Bowers

First Church, Greenwood, has called **Scott Lorton** as associate pastor, minister of education, and administration, effective

June 1. A native of Melbourne, Fla., Lorton received his education at Shorter College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Theodore, Ala.

Ron Plymel has joined the staff as associate pastor at Luka Church, Tishomingo Association, effective May 18. Jim Manley is pastor.

Marty Comer, pastor of Mount Vernon Church, Tupelo, has been called to Sand Ridge Church, Lexington, Tenn.

First Church, Collinsville, has called **Andy Murry** as youth and associate pastor.

Murry is a native of Memphis. He recently received the master of divinity degree at Southwestern Seminary.

Harvey Sewell resigned as pastor of Crowder Church, North Delta Association, effective May 30 to become pastor of Pine Grove Church, Benton-Tippah Association. He served as pastor of Crowder for 14 years. Other churches he pastored were Pleasant Hill, Union County Association, and Liberty, Pontotoc Association.



Sewell

Pascagoula. The church also called **Rick Smith** as minister of youth. He moved from Pearl River, La.

Mathew DeBord resigned as pastor of Lakeshore Church, Jackson, and accepted the call to First Church, Jonesboro, La. Guy Henderson, Clinton, is currently serving as interim pastor.

LaRue Stephens has been called as pastor of First Church, Long Beach. He previously served at McDowell Church, Jackson. Stephens received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Salem Church, Raymond, called **Joey Williams** as minister of music. A native of Natchez, Williams is a student at Mississippi College. His home church is Parkway in Natchez. Lee Kirk is pastor.

The 10 Commandments of Sunday School Growth

(This is part 3 of this series of growth laws.)

Law #6 — There can be no "Lone Rangers." One thing that will kill a church and keep it from reaching people is each member doing their own thing. This "Lone Ranger" attitude is seen in several ways...

- lack of attendance at training times or teacher meetings. There is the impression that the person is too good to waste their time being a part of the group. Maybe it is the attitude that says, "I've been teaching all these years, and there is nothing you can teach me." An even more dangerous attitude is the one that says, "I am more spiritual than you, so I don't need this."
- Lone Rangers also do not wish to follow the rules about which literature to teach. They want to talk about the latest best seller book, have group therapy, or teach anything except the approved literature. While this sounds harmless, it will destroy the unity of the Sunday School team. It also makes Teacher's Meeting impossible since each worker is doing their own thing.
- they are often more interested in building their own personal kingdoms, than building the church. If you ever mention dividing their class, changing their room, or taking their members out to teach; there will be a major revolt.

The Lone Ranger may have been a T.V. hero, but they are villains in the area of Sunday School growth. Unmasking them is not pleasant, but it is essential for a healthy organization.



Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor Trinity Baptist Church Southaven, Mississippi

Juniper Grove Church, Pearl River Association, has called **Ray M. Spence II** as pastor, effective June 22. He served for five years at Unity Church,

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LIFE AND WORK

When in need of encouragement

Psalm 42:1-4, 6-7; 43:3-5

By Geneva England

When searching the Scripture for words of encouragement, we often overlook the powerful message packed into Psalms 42-43. These verses were most probably penned after David's flight to Jordan away from his rebellious son Absalom. Fulfillment of the prophet Nathan's prophecy had finally come. Following David's adultery with Bathsheba and the shedding of her husband Uriah's innocent blood, Nathan proclaimed that the sword would never leave David's house. Absalom's attempt to overthrow David as king reminded David that God's judgment stands true. Separated from his kingdom, his home, and the beloved

Tabernacle at Jerusalem, David needed encouragement. Even as a "man after God's own heart" (Acts 12:22), David doubted. His situation reminds us how vulnerable we are to grief.

Desire (42:1-2). By an analogy to a small deerlike creature panting for water and rest in the heat of a chase, the psalmist reveals the anguish of David's soul. Indeed, David knew the plight of the hunted, having himself narrowly escaped from Saul and his army while fleeing over rugged terrain. Just like a hounded, parched animal, David's affliction reached the deepest recesses of his soul as he ached once again to be in the presence of his God, in the



England

well-spring of living waters. In times of trouble we, like David, thirst for the living waters that only God provides. Therefore, we should earnestly, fervently desire to worship the Lord in daily prayers, devotions, and church attendance.

Distress (42:3-4). Sometimes our adversaries hound us so persistently that we pant and thirst just as David did. They may be our closest acquaintances, or even family members. These slanderers impugn our Savior and taunt our beliefs. David, once again in the desert season of his life, cried out to God in desperation. His whole body gasped for the living God, the sustainer of life. Grief completely overwhelmed him so that day and night he ate and drank his own tears. All this time, Satan's spokesmen denounced the existence of God. David was consumed with distress!

Is there a parallel in David's

situation with your life? If so, please read on.

Discouragement (42:6-7). David reached an even lower point of despair—the "deepest of deep." His downcast spirit debated whether God had abandoned him. He languished over his present state, as he recalled the former joy of leading the procession to the sanctuary in Jerusalem in the worship and praise of God.

When we lose sight of God and focus on self, we develop afflictions proceeding from ourselves; these become troublesome to our inner peace and joy. When our deepest deep is disrupted, we doubt just as David did.

Satan attacks our most vulnerable spots in order to undermine the believer's faith and confidence in God. Whenever ungodly scoffers fitfully shake our dependence on Christ, we, like David, must remember Psalm 121:7: "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil—he shall preserve thy soul."

Deliverance (43:3-5). The psalmist reflects on his suffering until he turns his eyes upon "God his rock." He, then, places his hope of present and eternal salvation into the hands of God. With God as his stronghold, his cries turn from total despair to total dependence.

David remembered when God helped him slay Goliath with a stone; he remembered when God protected him from Saul. Therefore he chided himself for his doubts, acknowledging God as "a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1).

Christian friend, your greatest hour of need should generate your greatest hour of need. Don't forsake God! He will never forsake you. YOU belong to a loving, all-powerful Savior who suffered our afflictions and now resides on the right hand of God the Father, interceding on our behalf. Trust solely in him as your comforter-encourager.

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Worshipping in a spirit of unity

I Corinthians 11:2-12:11

By Jason Bird

God's children need to be reminded of a certain principle time and again: doing the right thing, the wrong way, offends God. This principle is evident in God's opinion of Cain's offering, the sacrifices the people offered to their God, and offerings brought into his presence. Paul found it necessary to remind the Corinthian church of this fact. In the matter of the Lord's Supper, they needed to know there was a right way and a wrong way to participate.

The Lord's Supper: The Wrong Way (11:17-22). The Corinthians made a mockery of the ordinance of the Lord's

Supper. The church would gather for an evening meal, followed by communion. It should have been a time when the poor could enjoy the physical blessings of sharing in the food of the wealthy as well as the spiritual blessings of sharing the unity of Christ. Instead, many were gorging themselves with the food, getting drunk, and turning the whole event into a party of extreme indulgence. This practice did not honor God and caused divisions in the church. Paul stated that their observance of the Lord's Supper caused more harm than good and until they changed their ways, they shouldn't identify it



Bird

as an act of worship.

The charges against the Corinthians may have surprised them. After all, they were observing the Lord's Supper as commanded, and, undoubtedly, they were confident God was pleased with them because they continued to perform this ritual. They forgot God concerns himself not just with the action, but with the attitude of the heart.

Churches today must take care not to fall into the same trap. Worship and the ministries of the church must never become ritualistic routines which give no thought to meaning. God is more concerned with the attitude of our hearts than with mindless repetition of activities carried out in His name. Paul felt compelled to remind the Corinthians of the original purpose behind observ-

ing the Lord's Supper so that they might observe it correctly.

The Lord's Supper: The Right Way (11:23-34). In order to observe the Lord's Supper correctly, we must remember why this ordinance is a part of the church. The apostle reminds the church that this is a supper of remembrance. Whenever the church observes this ordinance, we must recall the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that purchased eternal life. Each time a believer participates in the Lord's Supper, that believer proclaims not only the truth that Jesus died for the sins of all mankind, but that he lives again and will come back one day for his children.

In light of the profound truth the Supper proclaims, Paul declares that anyone who does not take the experience seriously is guilty of dishonoring the work of Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is critical for believers to par-

ticipate in the Lord's Supper only in a way that honors God. The first step for the believer is an examination of his heart.

Before participating in the Lord's Supper, believers should make sure nothing improper exists in their lives. We should harbor no unconfessed sin, no bitterness toward others, no wrong motives nor anything else not pleasing to God.

"So, then, when you come together to eat, wait for each other." With this statement, the apostle reminds the participants that the Lord's Supper consider the needs of others. Being in right relationship with God should always make a difference in the way a believer relates to those around him. Focusing on the love Jesus showed us at His crucifixion should remind us to show that love to others.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

The captain of salvation

Hebrews 2:1-18

By Wayne VanHorn

The Place of Humanity (2:5-8). Jesus is worthy of our loyalty for two reasons. First, he became human and "walked in our shoes." Second, God entrusted to him the world to come (Heb. 2:5). Jesus had to live in our world and live under our conditions in order for him to be a guide whom we could trust. The Word becoming flesh (John 1:14) signified that the Father was presenting his ultimate revelation and that his Son was entrusted to present the Gospel. The writer of Hebrews refers to this Gospel as "so great a salvation" and of it being

"first spoken through the Lord" (Heb. 2:3). The humanity of Christ was, for the writer of Hebrews, a supporting factor in his call for us to "pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Heb. 2:1; NASB).

The writer cites Psalm 8:4-6 to buttress his position that Jesus is worthy of our loyalty (Heb. 2:6-8). The Psalm speaks clearly of man's high station in creation signified by the fact that God appointed him over the works of his hands and put all things in subjection under his feet. Jesus fulfills this role



VanHorn

perfectly. Psalm 8 provides a scriptural basis for the incarnation and for the dominion of Christ. All things will be subjected unto him. Since this is the case, it follows that loyalty to God's Son is the only logical course of action. The writer states, "But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him" (Heb. 2:8b). He lives with a tension between two equal realities, namely that, all things will be subjected to Christ, but right now not all things are subjected to him.

The Author of Salvation (2:9-13). Jesus is the captain or author of our salvation. The Greek word *archegon* (ar-kay-gon) translated "captain" or "author" in Heb. 2:10 refers to a person who goes before and marks the trail for others to follow. In this sense, Jesus is our

trailblazer marking for us the path of life just as a captain steers a ship or an author guides his readers through a subject by way of the written page.

Jesus' status as a trustworthy guide did not come easily. He endured the suffering of death (2:9) and was perfected "through suffering" (2:10). Jesus is worthy of our loyalty because he tasted death for us (2:9b) and because he sanctifies us to God (2:11). God perfected his Son Jesus as the Captain or author of our salvation through suffering to bring us to himself. We should honor Jesus with our loyalty because he alone is God's provision for our salvation. In this sense Jesus, like us, is from the Father and we are his brethren (2:11). In Heb. 2:12-13 the writer employs Psalm 22:22 and Isaiah 8:17-18 to undergird the idea that all people are children of God and

brothers and sisters with Christ.

The Conqueror of Death (2:14-18). The advent of sin in the human experience necessitated the advent of a sinless guide who could lead fallen humanity back to the Father. Jesus is that perfect guide. Jesus partook of flesh and blood because the children who needed to be saved were of flesh and blood (2:14). To be human meant that people lived under the power of death and thus were slaves to the devil all their lives (2:14-15). Jesus died in order to render the devil powerless! Jesus' victory over the grave was a decisive blow to Satan's dominion over the lives of people. When Jesus conquered death, he became qualified to be our high priest in things pertaining to God and to make propitiation for our sins.

VanHorn is pastor, First Church Columbia.

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BCV young people are challenged on the Adventure Counseling Ropes Course on our India Nunnery Campus. Facilitators use the ropes course to help build trust, confidence, relationships and communication skills among residents and staff. While Regina prepares to take her leap from the pampier pole, Jake takes the dive with a smile. By conquering fears in these simulated challenges, young people learn to conquer fears and challenges they are faced with in real-life experiences. Taking the first step — accepting the challenge — is often the most difficult challenge of all. Whatever the personal challenge, every young person leaves the course stronger than they came.



MC BSU volunteers travel to Lithuania

By Mary Ellen Powell
Special to The Baptist Record

"We found Lithuania to be an avenue for God to use 12 people in 3 different places with one main goal—the Great Commission. We found warm,

Lithuania is a small country located on the Baltic Sea across from Germany and north of Poland. Lithuanians suffered through German occupation during World War II, followed by communist rule under the former Soviet Union, that ended when they won their independence in 1991.

The country still struggles with internal problems, having the highest suicide rate in Europe and ranking among the top ten in Europe in divorce, adultery, and abortions.

For IMB missionaries, Milton and Lara Burford Magalhaes — Lara is a MC graduate—the work requires much

vices on Sundays, led youth and adult Bible studies throughout the week, and spoke in public schools. Jeff Powell, MC BSU director said, "There was a tremendous amount of freedom to share in the classrooms, much more than experienced in the U.S. We were encouraged to sing Christian choruses, share our personal testimonies, and present the Gospel."

"Having the opportunity to distribute over 500 New Testaments in the school was a great privilege," said Adam Murray, a sophomore from Zachary, La., and a former missionary kid in France.

"There is definitely a lot of work to be done in Lithuania, but serving Christ in a country where six years ago even saying the name of Jesus was a crime is a great thing," he said.

The group ministered throughout the week with the help of translators.

"Our translator Leo was with us all week. He is Russian and not a Christian. How neat it was to see him grow to be our friend and learn new English words such as 'sin,' 'mercy,' and 'faith.'"

"He didn't know these words at all in any language and he began to ask questions. Many are praying that he comes to know Christ," said Rone.

The team encouraged the Lithuanians and received encouragement in return.

Justin Knight, a senior from Meridian, told of Olivia, in whose home he stayed:

"When we asked Olivia how it felt to finally have freedom (from communism) she said, 'Before we became Christians, our independence was very important to us, but we have found Jesus and now we know what freedom really is.'"

"I had never seen such happiness and satisfaction in the midst of so much sadness. Even though the country is free, it is new and growing pains have come in the form of hard times."

Jennifer Bennett, a senior from Vicksburg, summed up the trip:

"The experiences and blessings we received are too many to count. God prepared the way and sent our group to Lithuania with a specific purpose. Not only has God begun a mighty work in Lithuania, but also in my life."



LITHUANIA WITNESS — Members of the Mississippi College Baptist Student Union meet with Russian teenagers following a youth Bible study at the Baptist church in Klaipeda, Lithuania. (BR special photo)

genuine, godly people that were overflowing with sacrifice and servanthood, but we also found empty, sad people that are longing for hope and love," said Patti Rone, a senior from Madison, describing the recent Mississippi College (MC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) mission trip to Lithuania.

Ten students and two leaders were the first-ever Baptist volunteers through the International Mission Board (IMB) (formerly Foreign Mission Board) to this Baltic state. The group of twelve divided into three groups in different cities: — Kaunas, Klaipeda, and Silute — to work in the local churches and schools.

patience and perseverance.

Milton Magalhaes said, "People are skeptical and slow to trust. We have been here well over one year without a conversion, but are beginning to feel accepted by the people and pray that soon we will see some come to know the Lord."

As the groups ministered in the churches, they met people who had suffered for their faith.

One woman, Maria, was exiled to Siberia along with her husband, a Baptist pastor.

Maria said, "I have prayed and prayed for God to send people to tell my people about Jesus." She felt the team was a direct answer to her prayers.

Each group led worship ser-

Bibliocipher

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QGI RV DU XN CNI
VNLRKU, CURISUL EROO
DNGL VYISUL ESRWS RA
RC SUYKUC VNLRKU
DNGL ILUAMYAAUA.

FYLP UOUKUC:

IEUCID-ARH

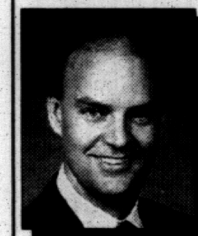
Clue: W equals C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation Three Fifteen.

Catching up at SBC



Among the present and former Mississippians catching up on news about each other at the 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas June 17-19 were (from left) M.C. Johnson, director of missions for North Delta Association in Clarksdale; Tommy Vinson, pastor of Leewood Church, Memphis, and former pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon; Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and immediate past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Ken McMillen, director of missions for Riverside Association in Livingston, Tenn., and former pastor of First Church, Byhalla. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My husband abuses me, but I haven't had him arrested because of our two children. Would God want me to stay in this marriage?

Children learn more about marriage by observing their parents than from any other source, so what are they learning from you? If you will not take action, you are teaching them that it is permissible for one person to abuse another, and that is not the biblical model of love and respect for one another (John 13:14; Rom. 12:9-21). Children from abusive families frequently become abusers themselves. Take action now to protect yourself and your children. Seek Christian counseling and get into a support group composed of people who have gone through what you are experiencing. Divorce is not necessarily the question at this point; it is possible that you can help your husband wake up and learn to cope with his anger by making him aware that you are too special to God to be abused by him. It is of the utmost importance, however, that you remove yourself and your children from the imminent danger of abuse. This is the first step in ensuring that this

tragedy will not be repeated in your children's generation.

How can I get past the humiliation I feel over the lifestyle of my 25-year-old son? Alcohol, wild parties, sex — you name it and he's done it.

You are grieving a great loss, in this case the loss of your hopes and dreams for your son. That's normal, but realize that you will not be able to change your son if he will not hear your concerns. Therefore, overcoming the hurt and humiliation is your responsibility no matter what he does. Don't accept the blame for his choices; it's too easy for adult children to rationalize bad behavior by blaming parents. Some people just have to learn the hard way. Take your focus off your son and place it where it belongs — on pleasing your Heavenly Father in all that you do. Serve your Lord, and be consistent in your Christian walk. Get busy with interests you enjoy. Your son is searching for ways to fill up his life, however inappropriately. Your Christian example and persistent love will show him the real things with which he should be filling his life.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.